

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a patient suffering from ulcerative colitis comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination of nicotine, ~~an analog thereof or a nicotine antagonist~~, and an anti-depressant, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in an amount effective to reduce the symptoms of ulcerative colitis, and wherein the anti-depressant is bupropion.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is administered transdermally.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is administered orally.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the nicotine composition and anti-depressant are given in conjunction with an additional ulcerative colitis treatment selected from the group consisting of an aminosalicylate, a corticosteroid, an immunomodulatory medicine, a steroid hormone, and a probiotic therapy.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the ulcerative colitis treatment is mesalazine, salazosulfapyridine, or budesonide.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is administered to a patient for a period greater than six months.

8-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 1 or 3 through 7 ~~4-13~~ wherein the composition is administered in a dose range between 5 mg/day and 40 mg/day of nicotine and 50 mg/day and 400 mg/day of bupropion.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the composition is administered at a dose of 10-40 mg/day nicotine and 200 mg bupropion.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the composition is administered at a dose of 10-40 mg/day nicotine and 400 mg bupropion.

17-18. (Canceled)